

Remarks

The Examiner stated on page 3, lines 1-2, of the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, that Claim 1 “does not require simultaneous readout from the array”. In order to clarify the invention, rather than to overcome this rejection, Claim 1 is amended to describe the signals as being simultaneously readout from the photodetector array, and Claim 28 to describe that the pixels of the overlapping windows, that are simultaneously imaged in the frame, are simultaneously readout from the photodetector array. Claim 22 has been amended similar to Claim 1. Such amendment clarifies even further the patentability of the claimed invention over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,262,871 (Wilder et al.), even in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,556,241 (Yoshimura et. al.), 5,095,212 (Kimata), 5,236,871 (Fossum et al.), or 5,216,484 (Chao et al.).

In order to provide a complete response, Applicants incorporated herein arguments over Wilder et al., Yoshimura et. al., Kimata, Fossum et al., and/or Chao et al. as set forth in the Amendment filed July 25, 2005.

As Applicants claim language should now be acceptable to Examiner as clearly distinguishing the invention over Wilder et al., Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1, 3 and 5-31 be allowed.

Claims 32, 34 and 35 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,080,104 (Ozawa et al.) “Ozawa”. Claim 32, as amended, describes at least one detector array for imaging a scene capable of simultaneous readout of multiple windows. FIG. 6 of Ozawa shows the opposite to that described in Claim 32, as Ozawa states at column 5, lines 43-52:

FIG. 6 shows a schematic block diagram of the window selecting circuit 32. As shown in FIG. 6, the CPU 30A selects one of four data limiting circuits 32a through 32d corresponding to the four windows (WINDOW 1, WINDOW 2, WINDOW 3 and WINDOW 4), which will be described later, in accordance with a setting on the selecting switches 14A and 14B. The four data limiting circuits 32a through 32d are set to designate different data ranges as respectively shown in the four windows WINDOW1 through WINDOW4. (underline added)

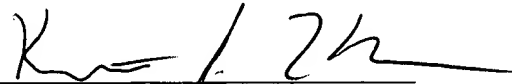
Each of the windows is thus individually selected in Ozawa, and Ozawa hence cannot provide simultaneous readout of multiple windows as claimed. Accordingly, Claims 32, 34 and 35 are clearly not anticipated by Ozawa as Ozawa fails to describe each and every element of these claims, and withdrawal of their rejection is requested.

Claim 33 was rejected as being unpatentable over Ozawa. Claim 33 depends on Claim 32, which for reasons argued above is patentable over Ozawa. Applicants also rebut that it is well known in vision systems or imaging for a host computer to control characteristics of a

detector that provides multiple simultaneous overlapping windows. Applicants request evidence supporting Examiner's official notice. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 33 is also requested.

It is believed that the Application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. J. LuKacher', written over a horizontal line.

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